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## CHAPTER SIXTEEN

# CADD TRANSLATION STANDARDS

### 16-1.0 GENERAL

The Indiana Department of Transportation uses the Graphic Data Systems (GDS) as the primary CADD system for all construction documents and mapping applications. Many consulting engineering firms have various other CADD systems to produce their engineering drawings. Because AutoCAD is the predominant CAD system used by the majority of consulting firms, INDOT has selected AutoCAD's DWG/DXF as the standard link to the GDS format. AutoCAD drawings are created using layers, line styles and character styles. GDS drawings use objects, phases, line styles and character styles. In order to share graphic data, the links listed in the following sections are provided to help translate drawings. If these standard naming conventions are maintained, then the drawings can be read into either system.

### 16-2.0 GDS AND AUTOCAD LINKS

#### 16-2.01 Objects vs. Layers

GDS object names can basically equate to AutoCAD layer names. Using the GDS object name as the layer name, the translation will process directly. Figure 16-2A, GDS Object and AutoCAD Layer Links, illustrates the object and layer names that should be used.

#### 16-2.02 Line Styles

GDS has over 700 line styles. INDOT's goal is to standardize these line styles for all its CADD drawings. Figure 16-2B, GDS and AutoCAD Line Style Links, provides a list of GDS line styles that will map directly to AutoCAD line types. INDOT has also developed several custom line styles (e.g., political boundaries, utilities, fences) that are used on construction plans that will not map directly to AutoCAD (i.e., the AutoCAD user will need to draft these line styles to match INDOT's criteria). These custom line styles are presented in Chapter Fifteen.

#### 16-2.03 Character Styles

Figure 16-2C, GDS and AutoCAD Character Style Links, presents a list of GDS character styles that will map directly to AutoCAD. Figure 16-2D, GDS Character Styles, presents GDS character styles used by the Department. Examples of GDS character styles can be found in Chapter Fifteen.